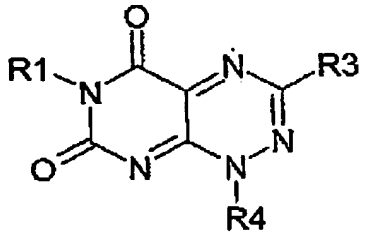
IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace the present claim set with the following. Specifically, please cancel claims 1-11 and add new claims 12-19 as follows:

Claims 1-11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (new): A method of treating type 2 diabetes which comprises administering to a patient in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula I,



I

wherein

R1, R3 and R4 are each independently H, F, Cl, Br, OH, CF_3, NO_2, CN, OCF_3, (C_1-C_6)-alkyl, (C_2-C_6)-alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)-alkynyl, O-(C_1-C_{10})-alkyl, O-(C_1-C_{10})-alkenyl, O-(C_2-C_{10})-alkynyl, S-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, S-(C_2-C_6)-alkenyl, S-(C_2-C_6)-alkynyl, (C_3-C_7)-cycloalkyl, (C_3-C_7)-cycloalkyl-(C_1-C_4)-alkyl,

wherein said (C_1-C_6)-alkyl, (C_2-C_6)-alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)-alkynyl, O-(C_1-C_{10})-alkyl, O-(C_1-C_{10})-alkenyl, O-(C_2-C_{10})-alkynyl, S-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, S-(C_2-C_6)-alkenyl, S-(C_2-C_6)-alkynyl, (C_3-C_7)-cycloalkyl and (C_3-C_7)-cycloalkyl-(C_1-C_4)-alkyl radicals are optionally substituted with one or more groups independently selected from F, Cl, Br, SO-phenyl, SO_2-phenyl or phenyl,

wherein said SO-phenyl, SO_2-phenyl or phenyl radical is optionally substituted with F, Cl, Br, R13 or OR13,

COOR13, CON(R14)(R15), N(R14)(R15), CO-heteroalkyl, O-SO-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, O-SO_2-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, O-SO_2-(C_6-C_{10})-aryl, O-(C_6-C_{10})-aryl,

wherein said O-SO_2-(C_6-C_{10})-aryl and O-(C_6-C_{10})-aryl radical is optionally mono- or disubstituted with F, Cl, CN, OR13, R13, CF_3 or OCF_3,

SO-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, SO_2-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, SO_2-(C_6-C_{10})-aryl,

wherein said SO_2-(C_6-C_{10})-aryl radical is optionally mono- or disubstituted with F, Cl, Br, CN, OR13, R13, CF_3, OCF_3, COOR13 or CON(R14)(R15),

SO_2-N(R14)(R15) or heteroalkyl;

R13, R14 and R15, are each independently H, (C_1-C_6)-alkyl or phenyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 13 (new) The method Claim 12 wherein

R1 is H or (C_1-C_6)-alkyl;

R1, R3 and R4 are each independently H, F, Cl, Br, OH, CF_3, NO_2, CN, OCF_3, (C_1-C_6)-alkyl, (C_2-C_6)-alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)-alkynyl, O-(C_1-C_{10})-alkyl, O-(C_1-C_{10})-alkenyl, O-(C_2-C_{10})-alkynyl, S-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, S-(C_2-C_6)-alkenyl, S-(C_2-C_6)-alkynyl, (C_3-C_7)-cycloalkyl, (C_3-C_7)-cycloalkyl-(C_1-C_4)-alkyl,

wherein said (C_1-C_6)-alkyl, (C_2-C_6)-alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)-alkynyl, O-(C_1-C_{10})-alkyl, O-(C_1-C_{10})-alkenyl, O-(C_2-C_{10})-alkynyl, S-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, S-(C_2-C_6)-alkenyl, S-(C_2-C_6)-alkynyl, (C_3-C_7)-cycloalkyl and (C_3-C_7)-cycloalkyl-(C_1-C_4)-alkyl radicals are optionally substituted with one or more groups independently selected from F, Cl, Br, SO-phenyl, SO_2-phenyl or phenyl,

wherein said SO-phenyl, SO_2-phenyl or phenyl radical is optionally substituted with F, Cl, Br, R13 or OR13,

COOR13, CON(R14)(R15), N(R14)(R15), CO-heteroalkyl, O-SO-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, O-SO_2-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, O-SO_2-(C_6-C_{10})-aryl, O-(C_6-C_{10})-aryl,

wherein said O-SO_2-(C_6-C_{10})-aryl and O-(C_6-C_{10})-aryl radical is optionally mono- or disubstituted with F, Cl, CN, OR13, R13, CF_3 or OCF_3,

SO-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, SO_2-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, SO_2-(C_6-C_{10})-aryl,

wherein said SO_2-(C_6-C_{10})-aryl radical is optionally mono- or disubstituted with F, Cl, Br, CN, OR13, R13, CF_3, OCF_3, COOR13 or CON(R14)(R15),

SO_2-N(R14)(R15) or heteroalkyl;

R13, R14 and R15 are, independently of each other, H, (C_1-C_6)-alkyl or phenyl.

Claim 14 (new) The method of Claim 13 wherein

R1, R3 and R4 are each independently H, F, Cl, Br, OH, CF_3, NO_2, CN, OCF_3, (C_1-C_6)-alkyl, (C_2-C_6)-alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)-alkynyl, O-(C_1-C_{10})-alkyl, O-(C_1-C_{10})-alkenyl, O-(C_2-C_{10})-

alkynyl, S-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, S-(C_2-C_6)-alkenyl, S-(C_2-C_6)-alkynyl, (C_3-C_7)-cycloalkyl, (C_3-C_7)-cycloalkyl-(C_1-C_4)-alkyl,

wherein said (C_1-C_6)-alkyl, (C_2-C_6)-alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)-alkynyl, O-(C_1-C_{10})-alkyl, O-(C_1-C_{10})-alkenyl, O-(C_2-C_{10})-alkynyl, S-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, S-(C_2-C_6)-alkenyl, S-(C_2-C_6)-alkynyl, (C_3-C_7)-cycloalkyl and (C_3-C_7)-cycloalkyl-(C_1-C_4)-alkyl radicals are optionally substituted with one or more groups independently selected from F, Cl, Br, SO-phenyl, SO_2-phenyl or phenyl,

wherein said SO-phenyl, SO_2-phenyl or phenyl radical is optionally substituted with F, Cl, Br, R13 or OR13,

COOR13, CON(R14)(R15), N(R14)(R15), CO-heteroalkyl, O-SO-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, O-SO_2-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, O-SO_2-(C_6-C_{10})-aryl, O-(C_6-C_{10})-aryl,

wherein said O-SO_2-(C_6-C_{10})-aryl and O-(C_6-C_{10})-aryl radical is optionally mono- or disubstituted with F, Cl, CN, OR13, R13, CF_3 or OCF_3,

SO-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, SO_2-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, SO_2-(C_6-C_{10})-aryl,

wherein said SO_2-(C_6-C_{10})-aryl radical is optionally mono- or disubstituted with F, Cl, Br, CN, OR13, R13, CF_3, OCF_3, COOR13 or CON(R14)(R15),

SO_2-N(R14)(R15) or heteroalkyl;

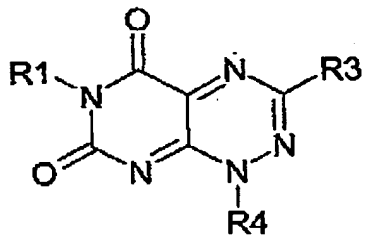
R13, R14 and R15, are each independently H, (C_1-C_6)-alkyl or phenyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 15 (new) The method of Claim 12 further comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an additional active compound selected from one or more of the following classes: antidiabetics, hypoglycaemic active compounds, HMGCoA reductase inhibitors, cholesterol absorption inhibitors, PPAR gamma agonists, PPAR alpha agonists, PPAR alpha/gamma agonists, fibrates, MTP inhibitors, bile acid absorption inhibitors, CETP inhibitors, polymeric bile acid absorbers, LDL receptor inducers, ACAT inhibitors, antioxidants, lipoprotein lipase inhibitors, ATP citrate lyase inhibitors, squalene synthetase inhibitors, lipoprotein(a) antagonists, lipase inhibitors, insulins, sulfonylureas, biguanides, meglitinides, thiazolidinediones, α-glucosidase inhibitors, active compounds acting on the ATP-dependent potassium channel in beta cells, CART agonists, NPY agonists, MC4 agonists, orexin agonists, H3 agonists, TNF agonists, CRF agonists, CRF BP antagonists, urocortin agonists, β3 agonists, MSH (melanocyte-stimulating hormone) agonists, CCK agonists, serotonin reuptake inhibitors, mixed serotoninergic and noradrenergic compounds, 5HT agonists, bombesin agonists, galanin antagonists, growth hormones, growth hormone-releasing

compounds, TRH agonists, uncoupling protein 2 or 3 modulators, leptin agonists, DA agonists (Bromocriptine, Doprexin), lipase/amylase inhibitors, PPAR modulators, RXR modulators or TR-β agonists or amphetamines.

Claim 16 (new) A method of treating insulin resistance which comprises administering to a patient in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula I,



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wherein

R1, R3 and R4 are each independently H, F, Cl, Br, OH, CF_3, NO_2, CN, OCF_3, (C_1-C_6)-alkyl, (C_2-C_6)-alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)-alkynyl, O-(C_1-C_{10})-alkyl, O-(C_1-C_{10})-alkenyl, O-(C_2-C_{10})-alkynyl, S-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, S-(C_2-C_6)-alkenyl, S-(C_2-C_6)-alkynyl, (C_3-C_7)-cycloalkyl, (C_3-C_7)-cycloalkyl-(C_1-C_4)-alkyl,

wherein said (C_1-C_6)-alkyl, (C_2-C_6)-alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)-alkynyl, O-(C_1-C_{10})-alkyl, O-(C_1-C_{10})-alkenyl, O-(C_2-C_{10})-alkynyl, S-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, S-(C_2-C_6)-alkenyl, S-(C_2-C_6)-alkynyl, (C_3-C_7)-cycloalkyl and (C_3-C_7)-cycloalkyl-(C_1-C_4)-alkyl radicals are optionally substituted with one or more groups independently selected from F, Cl, Br, SO-phenyl, SO_2-phenyl or phenyl,

wherein said SO-phenyl, SO_2-phenyl or phenyl radical is optionally substituted with F, Cl, Br, R13 or OR13,

COOR13, CON(R14)(R15), N(R14)(R15), CO-heteroalkyl, O-SO-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, O-SO_2-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, O-SO_2-(C_6-C_{10})-aryl, O-(C_6-C_{10})-aryl,

wherein said O-SO_2-(C_6-C_{10})-aryl and O-(C_6-C_{10})-aryl radical is optionally mono- or disubstituted with F, Cl, CN, OR13, R13, CF_3 or OCF_3,

SO-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, SO_2-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, SO_2-(C_6-C_{10})-aryl,

wherein said SO_2-(C_6-C_{10})-aryl radical is optionally mono- or disubstituted with F, Cl, Br, CN, OR13, R13, CF_3, OCF_3, COOR13 or CON(R14)(R15),

SO_2-N(R14)(R15) or heteroalkyl;

R13, R14 and R15, are each independently H, (C_1-C_6)-alkyl or phenyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 17 (new) The method Claim 16 wherein

R1, R3 and R4 are each independently H, F, Cl, Br, OH, CF_3, NO_2, CN, OCF_3, (C_1-C_6)-alkyl, (C_2-C_6)-alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)-alkynyl, O-(C_1-C_{10})-alkyl, O-(C_1-C_{10})-alkenyl, O-(C_2-C_{10})-alkynyl, S-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, S-(C_2-C_6)-alkenyl, S-(C_2-C_6)-alkynyl, (C_3-C_7)-cycloalkyl, (C_3-C_7)-cycloalkyl-(C_1-C_4)-alkyl,

wherein said (C_1-C_6)-alkyl, (C_2-C_6)-alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)-alkynyl, O-(C_1-C_{10})-alkyl, O-(C_1-C_{10})-alkenyl, O-(C_2-C_{10})-alkynyl, S-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, S-(C_2-C_6)-alkenyl, S-(C_2-C_6)-alkynyl, (C_3-C_7)-cycloalkyl and (C_3-C_7)-cycloalkyl-(C_1-C_4)-alkyl radicals are optionally substituted with one or more groups independently selected from F, Cl, Br, SO-phenyl, SO_2-phenyl or phenyl,

wherein said SO-phenyl, SO_2-phenyl or phenyl radical is optionally substituted with F, Cl, Br, R13 or OR13,

COOR13, CON(R14)(R15), N(R14)(R15), CO-heteroalkyl, O-SO-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, O-SO_2-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, O-SO_2-(C_6-C_{10})-aryl, O-(C_6-C_{10})-aryl,

wherein said O-SO_2-(C_6-C_{10})-aryl and O-(C_6-C_{10})-aryl radical is optionally mono- or disubstituted with F, Cl, CN, OR13, R13, CF_3 or OCF_3,

SO-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, SO_2-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, SO_2-(C_6-C_{10})-aryl,

wherein said SO_2-(C_6-C_{10})-aryl radical is optionally mono- or disubstituted with F, Cl, Br, CN, OR13, R13, CF_3, OCF_3, COOR13 or CON(R14)(R15),

SO_2-N(R14)(R15) or heteroalkyl;

R13, R14 and R15, are each independently H, (C_1-C_6)-alkyl or phenyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 18 (new) The method of Claim 17 wherein

R1, R3 and R4 are each independently H, F, Cl, Br, OH, CF_3, NO_2, CN, OCF_3, (C_1-C_6)-alkyl, (C_2-C_6)-alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)-alkynyl, O-(C_1-C_{10})-alkyl, O-(C_1-C_{10})-alkenyl, O-(C_2-C_{10})-alkynyl, S-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, S-(C_2-C_6)-alkenyl, S-(C_2-C_6)-alkynyl, (C_3-C_7)-cycloalkyl, (C_3-C_7)-cycloalkyl-(C_1-C_4)-alkyl,

wherein said (C_1-C_6)-alkyl, (C_2-C_6)-alkenyl, (C_2-C_6)-alkynyl, O-(C_1-C_{10})-alkyl, O-(C_1-C_{10})-alkenyl, O-(C_2-C_{10})-alkynyl, S-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, S-(C_2-C_6)-

alkenyl, S-(C_2-C_6)-alkynyl, (C_3-C_7)-cycloalkyl and (C_3-C_7)-cycloalkyl-(C_1-C_4)-alkyl radicals are optionally substituted with one or more groups independently selected from F, Cl, Br, SO-phenyl, SO_2-phenyl or phenyl,

wherein said SO-phenyl, SO_2-phenyl or phenyl radical is optionally substituted with F, Cl, Br, R13 or OR13,

COOR13, CON(R14)(R15), N(R14)(R15), CO-heteroalkyl, O-SO-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, O-SO_2-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, O-SO_2-(C_6-C_{10})-aryl, O-(C_6-C_{10})-aryl,

wherein said O-SO_2-(C_6-C_{10})-aryl and O-(C_6-C_{10})-aryl radical is optionally mono- or disubstituted with F, Cl, CN, OR13, R13, CF_3 or OCF_3,

SO-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, SO_2-(C_1-C_6)-alkyl, SO_2-(C_6-C_{10})-aryl,

wherein said SO_2-(C_6-C_{10})-aryl radical is optionally mono- or disubstituted with F, Cl, Br, CN, OR13, R13, CF_3, OCF_3, COOR13 or CON(R14)(R15),

SO_2-N(R14)(R15) or heteroalkyl;

R13, R14 and R15, are each independently H, (C_1-C_6)-alkyl or phenyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 19 (new) The method of Claim 16 further comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an additional active compound selected from one or more of the following classes: antidiabetics, hypoglycaemic active compounds, HMGCoA reductase inhibitors, cholesterol absorption inhibitors, PPAR gamma agonists, PPAR alpha agonists, PPAR alpha/gamma agonists, fibrates, MTP inhibitors, bile acid absorption inhibitors, CETP inhibitors, polymeric bile acid absorbers, LDL receptor inducers, ACAT inhibitors, antioxidants, lipoprotein lipase inhibitors, ATP citrate lyase inhibitors, squalene synthetase inhibitors, lipoprotein(a) antagonists, lipase inhibitors, insulins, sulfonylureas, biguanides, meglitinides, thiazolidinediones, α-glucosidase inhibitors, active compounds acting on the ATP-dependent potassium channel in beta cells, CART agonists, NPY agonists, MC4 agonists, orexin agonists, H3 agonists, TNF agonists, CRF agonists, CRF BP antagonists, urocortin agonists, β3 agonists, MSH (melanocyte-stimulating hormone) agonists, CCK agonists, serotonin reuptake inhibitors, mixed serotoninergic and noradrenergic compounds, 5HT agonists, bombesin agonists, galanin antagonists, growth hormones, growth hormone-releasing compounds, TRH agonists, uncoupling protein 2 or 3 modulators, leptin agonists, DA agonists (Bromocriptine, Doprexin), lipase/amylase inhibitors, PPAR modulators, RXR modulators or TR-β agonists or amphetamines.